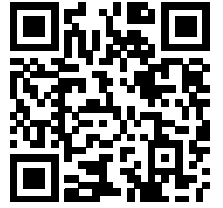


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Trade Routes in Early America



Long before Columbus set sail, the _____ were home to civilizations like the Maya, Aztec, and Inca. These societies were advanced in many ways, including their _____ of trade. Roads and waterways linked cities and regions, allowing the exchange of goods like _____, beans, chocolate, jade, and feathers. The Maya, for example, were known for their _____ beans, which were so valuable they were used as currency.

Trade routes also facilitated the spread of _____ and technologies, such as writing systems and the zero in mathematics, which was first used by the _____. This exchange helped civilizations to grow and become more _____.

In the Andes, the Inca developed an extensive network of roads known as the _____, which stretched over 30,000 kilometers. This network not only served for trade but also for _____ and military purposes, demonstrating the multifunctional use of trade routes.

However, _____ in the Americas was not without its challenges. Geographic barriers like the Rocky Mountains and dense _____ made travel and communication difficult. Despite these obstacles, native peoples developed innovative _____, such as the creation of lightweight canoes for river travel and the domestication of _____ in the Andes as pack animals.

This early trade network laid the _____ for economic systems that would later be exploited and expanded by European _____, who were drawn to the New World by tales of vast wealth. The impact of these early trade _____ is still evident today in the cultural exchanges and genetic _____ found throughout the Americas.

- colonizers
- Qhapaq Ñan
- trade
- cacao
- corn
- communication
- groundwork
- llamas
- complex
- solutions
- networks
- Americas
- systems
- rainforests
- Maya
- ideas
- diversity